



Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



December 06, 2002

Hot News!

McCollum Joins President in Oval Office

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) joined President George W. Bush at the White House this week as he signed the *Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building Act*. The bill passed by a unanimous vote in the House and Senate last month, and authorizes \$10 million for the design and construction of a new community center in St. Paul at the Neighborhood House.

"I am proud that the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building will be in the 4th District. The Wellstones extended open arms to all communities and this memorial will encourage all Minnesotans to carry on their great tradition of public service," said Rep. McCollum. "Senator Wellstone was my colleague, but Paul and Sheila were also my friends."

Rep. McCollum visited Neighborhood House shortly after the tragic plane crash to pay tribute to the work of Paul and Sheila. The Wellstones were fully committed to the mission of Neighborhood House to build doorways of opportunity for vibrant, diverse communities. Senator Wellstone regularly participated in the Freedom Festival to honor new American citizens from the Hmong, Latino, Somali and other communities who had prepared for naturalization at Neighborhood House.

"The memorial at Neighborhood House reflects the principles that Paul Wellstone represented in the United States Senate and honors him and Sheila for their tireless efforts. This is a memorial that came out of our community's tragedy, but will continue to enrich our neighborhoods and bring opportunity to new Minnesotans," said Congresswoman McCollum.

"Pic" of the Week



Rep. Betty McCollum celebrated the 50th Anniversary of ARC, the national organization of and for individuals and families with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities. As a State Representative and Member of Congress, McCollum has worked closely with Cindy Johnson and her daughter, Jenna (both pictured above) on disability issues.

Observing World AIDS Day

Rep. Betty McCollum met with 10th, 11th and 12th grade Social Studies students at Central High School in St. Paul to lead a discussion on HIV/AIDS. Sunday, December 1, 2002 marked World AIDS Day.

With 95% of AIDS cases found in the world's poorest countries, the discussion between the Congresswoman and the nearly 80 students focused on the AIDS epidemic globally, but also addressed questions of medical privacy and overall public health in the United States. An estimated 5 million new infections are predicted by the end of 2002 and over 4000 Minnesotans are currently infected with the virus.

McCollum has been a strong advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention and research funding.

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

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